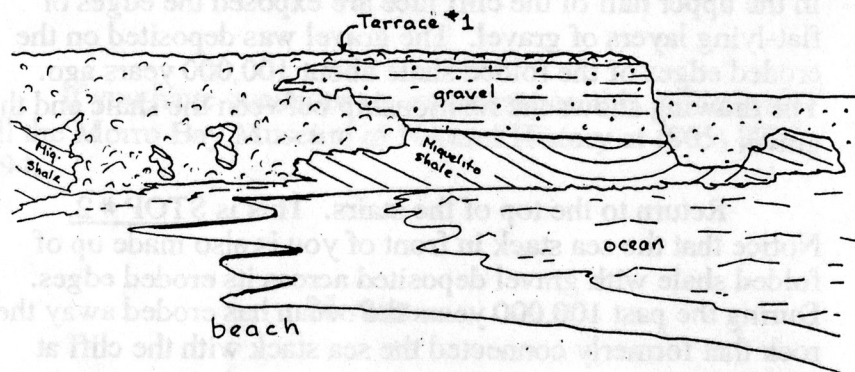


Recross Pecho Road and follow the path that heads southward parallel to the road. A sign marks the beginning of the Valencia Peak Trail. Poison oak is a minor problem on this trail. The only concentration is at "Poison Oak Spring", the location of which is identified in the Guide. Rattlesnakes are rarely seen but be alert. You should check your body and clothing for ticks when you return home. Proceed up the trail to the sign at STOP #3.



STOP #1

STOP #3 (under the pole line). Face the ocean. You can now see that the top of the cliff seen at STOP #1 is the edge of a flat terrace. It was cut by the ocean 100,000 years ago when the terrace was at sea level. The gravel was deposited on the wave-cut terrace at the same time. This eroded platform is referred to as Terrace #1 (see the cross section in the centerfold). The slope you have just climbed to reach STOP #3 is the eroded remnant of a vertical cliff that was cut by the ocean when Terrace #1 was being eroded. When Terrace #1 was uplifted from sea level the ocean retreated westward about 1/4 mile beyond the present shoreline and began eroding a new terrace which is slightly

below sea level. This terrace will be referred to as Terrace #0. It has been undergoing erosion by the ocean for the past 100,000 years.

Proceed up the trail passing the junction with Rattlesnake Flats Trail. You are crossing Terrace #2 which was at sea level 150,000 years ago. Ahead of you is a low hill which is the eroded remnant of the cliff that stood inland of Terrace #2 when it was located at sea level.

The trail turns to the right and climbs diagonally along the face of this eroded cliff. Past the turn there is a short section of railing on your right. Note the verdant plant growth which is watered by a spring. Later we will refer to this as "Railing Spring". Continuing on the trail you quickly come to a fork. Bear left and stay on the main trail. Do not use any of the "short cuts" that branch off to the left. A short distance beyond a switchback is STOP #4 located across the trail from a large outcrop of Miguelito Shale. You are almost to the top of the cliff behind Terrace #2.

STOP #4. Face the ocean. From here you can see Terraces #1 and #2 (as well as #0 which is presently being cut). You are on your way up to Terrace #3. Refer to the cross section and map in the centerfold and review your progress across the lower terraces and the cliffs that formed behind them. Continue up the trail a distance of about 300 feet. On your right is an outcrop of gray and orange sandstone. This has been cemented from sand that accumulated on Terrace #3. The orange areas are rich in iron which has leached from the gray areas. Continue up the trail about 150 feet to a thicket of chaparral vegetation sustained by a spring located at the head of the gully a short distance ahead on your right. This spring will be referred to later as "Poison Oak Spring". It is on the same subsurface stream and supplies "Railing Spring" on the trail below.

Just beyond is an outcrop of gravel on the right side of the trail. This was deposited by streams draining the hillsides when Terrace #3 was at sea level. It rests on the eroded edges